AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid molecule consists ~~consisting~~ of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence comprising ~~shown in~~ SEQ ID NO:2;

~~(b) a nucleotide sequence that encodes of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;~~

~~(c) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;~~

~~(d) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids; and~~

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) ~~(e)~~ a nucleotide sequence that is ~~the complement of~~ completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c) ~~(d)~~.

5-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A ~~nucleic acid~~ vector comprising the a nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 ~~5~~.

9. (currently amended) An isolated host cell containing the vector of claim 8.

10-23. (canceled)

24. (new) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

25. (new) An isolated polynucleotide, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said polynucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

26. (new) An isolated polynucleotide, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said polynucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO:3 or the complement thereof.

27. (new) The vector of claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

28. (new) The vector of claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 is expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

29. (new) The vector of claim 28, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.